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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,121	09/23/2003	Sherif Yacoub	200207195-1	1995
22879	7590	04/06/2007	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY			SAINT CYR, LEONARD	
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION				
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			2626	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/668,121	YACOUB ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Leonard Saint-Cyr	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1 – 8, 14 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Bennett et al., (US PAP 2002/0194000).

As per claims 1, 8, and 14, Bennett et al., teach an automatic speech recognition (ASR) that comprises:

providing a plurality of categories (“American male”) for different speech utterances; assigning a different ASR engine to each category (“recognizers that have good performance for American men southern accents be enabled”; paragraph 15, lines 6 – 9; paragraph 19; paragraph 20, lines 7 - 9);

receiving a first speech utterance (“receiving the input stream”) from a first user; classifying the first speech utterance into one of the categories (paragraph 12, lines 1, and 2; paragraph 19, lines 10 - 12); and

selecting the ASR engine assigned to the category to which the first speech utterance is classified to automatically recognize the first speech utterance (“deriving the enabling information allows the system to select the recognizers that process the input stream”; paragraph 19, lines 10 – 12; paragraph 20, lines 7 – 9).

As per claims 2, and 15, Bennett et al., further disclose providing a plurality of categories for different speech utterances further comprises providing a male category and a female category (“gender”; paragraph 19, lines 10 – 12; paragraph 31, line 3).

As per claim 3, Bennett et al., further disclose assigning a different ASR engine to each category further comprises assessing accuracy of each ASR engine for each category (“accuracy of each recognizer in a particular situation”; paragraph 22, lines 8, and 9).

As per claims 4, and 16, Bennett et al., further disclose assessing accuracy of each ASR engine for each category further comprises determining a least Word Error Rate of each ASR engine for each category (“a recognizer with a recognizer-based confidence value of 90%”; paragraph 42, lines 3, and 4).

As per claim 5, Bennett et al., further disclose assigning a different ASR engine to each category further comprises assessing time required for each ASR engine to recognize speech utterances (“performance over time”; paragraph 42, line – paragraph 43, line 3).

As per claim 6, Bennett et al., further disclose receiving a second speech utterance from a second user; classifying the second speech utterance into one of the

categories; and selecting the ASR engine assigned to the category to which the second speech utterance is classified to automatically recognize the speech utterance, wherein the ASR engine assigned to the category to which the second speech utterance is classified is different from the ASR engine assigned to the category to which the first speech utterance is classified (using characteristics of the communication channel and contextual information such as gender to enable some of the recognizers among a plurality of recognizers, implies that it is inherent to classify another speech to another category; paragraph 20; paragraph 17; paragraph 31, line 3).

As per claim 7, Bennett et al., further disclose that the first speech utterance is classified into a male category, and the second speech utterance is classified into a female category (“gender”; paragraph 19, lines 10 – 12; paragraph 31, line 3).

As per claim 17, Bennett et al., further disclose at least three different ASR engines and at least three different combination schemas of ASR engines to represent a total of at least six different ASR engines (“processing cell phone audio stream with some recognizers among multiple recognizers”; paragraph 10, lines 2, and 3; paragraph 16, lines 2 – 4).

As per claim 18, Bennett et al., further disclose that a telephone network comprising at least one switching service point coupled to the computer system (“output switch 16”; paragraph 4, lines 8 – 10; paragraph 10; paragraph 13, line 3).

As per claim 19, Bennett et al., further disclose that at least one communication device in communication with the switching service point to provide the speech utterance (“cell phone connection” paragraph 10; paragraph 13, line 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9 – 13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al., (US PAP 2002/0194000).

As per claims 9, and 20, Bennett et al., do not specifically teach storing a ranking matrix, the ranking matrix comprising a plurality of different categories of speech signals and a plurality of different ASR engine corresponding to the plurality of different categories.

However, since Bennett et al., teach selecting the recognizers that are better for cell phone audio streams than other recognizers (paragraph 16, lines 2 – 4), one having ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to use a ranking matrix comprising a plurality of different categories of speech signals and a plurality of different ASR engine within Bennett et al., because that would determine the recognizers that would be enabled for a particular input stream (paragraph 16, lines 5, and 6).

As per claim 10, Bennett et al., further disclose different categories are selected from the group consisting of gender, noise level, and pitch ("signal strength"; paragraph 15, line 7; paragraph 31, line 3).

As per claim 11, Bennett et al., further disclose different ASR engines comprise single ASR engines ("single recognizer") and multiple ASR engines combined together (paragraph 21, lines 1, and 2; paragraph 20, lines 7, and 8).

As per claim 12, Bennett et al., further disclose the plurality of different ASR engine rankings are derived from statistical analysis ("performance history of the particular recognizer"; paragraph 23, line 5).

As per claim 13, Bennett et al., further disclose that the statistical analysis comprises assessing accuracy of speech recognition of different ASR engines with different speech signals ("accuracy of each recognizer in a particular situation"; paragraph 22, lines 8, and 9).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bennett et al., (US Patent 6,701,293) teach combining n-best list from multiple speech recognizers.

Basson et al., (US Patent 6,996,526) teach a method and apparatus for transcribing speech when a plurality of speakers are participating.

Baker (US Patent 6,122,613) teaches a speech recognition using multiple recognizers (selectively) applied to the same input sample.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard Saint-Cyr whose telephone number is (571) 272-4247. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LS
03/29/07



RICHMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER